

Remarks

Claim 1

Importantly, the invention according to claim 1 relates to a receiver operative to decode signals transmitted through air. In this receiver, a received “mode indicator signal” indicative of whether inter-frame prediction was used is compared to a result of comparing received macro-blocks that result indicating whether inter-frame prediction was used. If these two disagree, an error signal is generated.

In more detail, according to the present invention, the received video signals are transmitted through air. The received signals provide the mode indicator signal. It is this decoded mode indicator signal, indicative of whether or not inter-frame prediction format was applied, that is compared in the receiver to the output from a first comparator that compares received macroblocks in successive frames to produce an indication of whether inter-frame prediction format should apply or not. This is clear in amended claim 1. The first comparator can be considered as doing a “fresh” comparison of appropriate macroblocks in the receiver after over air transmission to see whether interframe production format should have been applied or not and the result of that comparison is compared to the received over air mode indicator signal. The present invention thus distinguishes over Urano and provides a useful means of error detection at the receiver.

This clearly distinguishes over Urano which relates to processing at an encoder to produce macroblock information MBT for transmission (emphasis added). The present invention according to amended claim 1 relates to a receiver whereas the cited portions of Urano relate to transmitters. Specifically, as mentioned in Urano column 3, line 40, Figure 8 shows an encoder, parts of which are described in column 9, lines 21 to 36 and in column 9, lines 50 to 53 in relation to Figure 12, see column 9, lines 37 to 39. Figure 8 is taught as being an encoder, not an encoder/decoder. Urano column 9 lines 21 to 25 relates to operations at the encoder to provide a reference frame, see column 9 line 29, used by the encoder in applying different types of predictive coding then selecting which type of predictive coding, to apply, see e.g. column 8 lines 44 to 46 which states “Bidirectional predictive encoding of B- pictures is done by reference to decoded I picture

and/or P- pictures as reference frames”, and e.g. column 10 lines 52 to column 11 line 1 which talks of selection of the most efficient compression scheme from amongst various types of predictive coding or none. Furthermore, column 14, lines 57 to 60, which relate to Figures 17 and 21, see column 12, lines 51 to 52 and column 3, lines 59 to 65, also relates to an encoder.

Also, in Urano dispersion value comparator 232 in Figure 12 compares outputs from four different dispersion value calculators 216, 226, 228, 230 so as to choose between three different types of inter-frame prediction compression or none during encoding, see column 10 line 52 to column 11 line 2. Column 9 lines 21 to 36 does not contradict this.

In his previous response to arguments, the Examiner has cited further portions of Urano, namely column 19 lines 5 to 49 and Figure 31. These are not more relevant than the previously cited portions of Urano. Specifically, as mentioned on column 16 lines 66 to 67, Figure 29 shows an encoder, parts of which are described in column 19 lines 5 to 49 and shown in Figure 31. Also, dispersion value comparator 454 in Figure 31 appears to compare outputs from multiple different dispersion calculators, such as 440, 445, 446 and 452, so as to choose between different types of inter-frame prediction compression or none during encoding, see column 19 lines 3 to 17 and column 19 lines 50 to column 20 line 16. In his latest response to arguments, the Examiner has asserted that Figure 17 is an encoder/decoder similar in operation to that shown in Figure 8. The Examiner is incorrect that Figure 17 is an encoder/decoder as required by claim 1, see e.g. Urano, column 3, lines 64 to 65 and column 12 lines 9 to 10. The argument above in respect of Urano Figure 8 applies to Figure 17 *mutatis mutandis*.

In summary, Urano is concerned with operations of the transmitter. This is confirmed by e.g. its abstract and claims, all of which relate to encoding.

As previously outlined, the present invention concerns operations at a receiver, more specifically comparison of corresponding macroblocks of current and previous frames to determine whether interframe-prediction format was applied or not, and comparison of the result with a received mode indicator signal in order to detect errors.

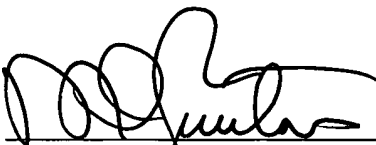
For completeness, we should mention that the passage of Urano cited in column 14, lines 57 to 60 does not teach comparison of that result with a received mode indicator signal indicative of whether or not inter-frame prediction was applied in compression before transmission. Also, column 14 lines 57 to 60 relates to a different system to that shown in Figure 12. (Further to the Examiner's response to arguments, we would also add that Figures 8, 17 and 21 relate to apparatus at the encoder, not at the decoder as required by claim 1).

Claims 2, 3 and 5 were indicated as being rejected under 35 USC 102. However, no reasoning was provided as to how the extra features referred to in those dependent claims were disclosed by Urano. Nevertheless, this is believed to now be moot, as these claims 2, 3 and 5 now depend on what is believed to be an allowable amended base claim, and so are allowable not least on that basis.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance. In the event of any fees inadvertently omitted or any improper payment of fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit Lucent Technologies Deposit Account No.12-2325 to correct the error now or during the pendency of this application.

If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone conversation would be helpful, please contact **Martin Finston** at **973 386 3147**.

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